GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:662
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
EXPLORATION OF HYDROCARBON RESERVES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has assessed quantum of unexplored hydrocarbon reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has been actively considering to invite international firms to explore oil and gas in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether indigenous exploration of gas and oil would be boosted to minimise imports; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of India are estimated to be about 28085 Million Metric Tonne(MMT), out if which about 7886 MMT in-place reserves have been established till 1.4.2004, leaving about 20199 MMT of hydrocarbon resources yet to be established through extensive exploration.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir. Exploration blocks are being awarded to foreign companies to explore oil and gas in the country since 1991 through exploration bidding rounds and at present under the New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP). So far, Production Sharing Contracts(PSCs) for 41 exploration blocks have been signed with foreign companies either alone or in partnership with other companies.

(e) & (f): Yes Sir. As per Hydrocarbon Vision 2025, appraisal of all sedimentary basins of India is envisaged to be completed by the year 2025 and appraisal of 35% of Indian Sedimentary basins by the end of X Plan (2006-07). To achieve this objective, Government of India has taken the following steps:-

(i) Opening of new areas for further exploration.

(ii) Under NELP, 90 exploration blocks have been awarded to various companies in four rounds of exploratory bidding held till now. The exploration work in NELP blocks has led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far. 20 more exploration blocks have been offered for international competitive bidding under the fifth round of NELP.

(iii) Enhanced exploration by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.